

# Grace Church Visitor

*A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church*

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

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NOVEMBER, 1914

No. 1

The annual statements will be out for distribution the first Sunday in December. Those not distributed will be sent out through the mail. The financial secretary is anxious that all the pledges shall be paid in full by Dec. 27th. Those who had no pledges should feel it their duty to do their part toward the payment of the current expenses of the church. We hope to see them do this.

Christmas is coming on rapidly. Preparations are on the way for the Christmas services, which will be held on the Sabbath preceding Christmas, Dec. 20th. Christmas sermon and Christmas music by the quartette at the regular hour for the morning service. The service for the Sunday School and church will be in the afternoon at 4 o'clock. We want everybody out to these services. The Christmas offering must not be forgotten. Every member of the Sunday School and of the church will be supplied with a special envelope for this offering. There will be a manger for the offerings for the Orphans' Home.

The music for Christmas at Grace Church will be of special interest. The newly organized choir, composed of Miss Ruth Gumpfer, soprano; Miss Esther Fritz, contralto; Mr. Abram Jones, tenor, and Mr. Dick Hartzler, baritone, is delighting the congregation with excellent music.

They will sing the cantata entitled "The Star of the East," by J. S. Fearis, at the Christmas services on the Sunday preceding Christmas, at 10:30 a.m. At the Vesper service the choir will assist the Sunday school in giving a program of songs and recitations.

It should be a matter of rejoicing to every member of the congregation to know that the music will be taken care of at each service of the Church. There is nothing that adds so much to a service as good music. Without it every service is incomplete. Let us do all we can to encourage the spirit of aggressiveness in all our work for the Lord. A half-hearted or indifferent service is never pleasing to God, neither is it conducive to our own spiritual growth. The best we have, of gifts of time, of talent, will only satisfy our Heavenly Father.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

The Financial Secretary will distribute the annual statements on Sunday, Dec. 6th. These statements will show the amount pledged for the entire year and the amount paid to Dec. 1st. The balance, if any is shown, will be the amount due to January 1, 1915, viz: If you have pledged 25 cents per week and your statement shows a credit of \$12.00, balance due \$1.00, you will please bear in mind that these four Sundays in December and at 25 cents per week the amount due would be taken care of by the payments for these four Sundays.

If any errors have been made, the Secretary will gladly correct them.

May we urge upon all those whose pledges have not been paid to kindly make an effort to take care of them by the last Sunday in the year so that we can close our books without a deficit.

"Show courtesy to others.  
Not because they are gentlemen, but—  
Because you are one."

## THE EVERY MEMBER CANVAS.

What is it? It contemplates a canvas of the entire congregation for the purpose of securing a definite pledge from every member for the current expenses of the church and for benevolence. Many churches have adopted and tried out his method of financing the church and found it entirely satisfactory and successful. The financing of a church is a business proposition, and must be worked out upon business methods and principles, such as the every member canvas contemplates.

This system involves the principle of fair and honest dealing, on the part of church members, with God and one another. It contemplates that every member of the church shall do his just and conscientious duty toward the support of his church and for the extension of God's kingdom. It involves the principle of justice and right-doing. It has for its objective something more than the raising of money for the financing of the church, or its mission boards. There is higher objective involved than this: it purposes to be a training and schooling of the church and of the church members in their duties and obligations of honest and fair dealing with God and his Church.

The Church of Jesus Christ is to be the schoolmaster and advocate of these great basic principles of honesty and right-doing. The Church is greatly in need of this kind of teaching and preaching just now. There is need of an awakening of the conscience of the church upon this subject. We know that the preachers are commonly charged with having too much to say in the pulpit upon this subject of giving, but this charge does not come from the people who are honest in their dealing with the church and with God. The preacher who does not teach and train his people to deal justly and fairly with each other, and with God, is not doing his duty. The preacher is to direct his people in right channels, and he is to admonish and reprove them when they

shirk their duties and responsibilities.

Now the every member canvas is to correct this wrong and injustice in the church of shirking duty and responsibility. Every member owes obligations to his church and to God. "Every man according to his ability;" this is the divine injunction. It is just and right that every man should do his whole duty to the church, dealing justly and honestly with God, and no church member is justified in failing to discharge his full duty. It is not possible for one man to put his responsibilities over upon the shoulders of another. Keep in sight the fact that the every member canvas is to be an educator of the church member in the principle of honesty and fair-dealing.

The every member canvas, if carried out in its true spirit, will be an education of the people in the true spirit and of profit of giving. The true value of the offering brought to the Lord is in the spirit of giving. The apostle says: "Not grudgingly, nor of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver." If the heart does not go with the offering the giving is amiss. Many of the people give, but they do not give according to their ability, and they give of necessity, and grudgingly. There can be no blessing and no profit in this kind of giving. "Bring ye the whole tithe into the storehouse; and prove me now herewith," saith the Lord of Hosts, "if I will not open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." It is a mistaken idea that giving impoverishes. The man who gives is blessed and enriched in heart and spirit, and in all temporal things. Robbing God does not pay; God loves the cheerful giver and is the rewarder of those who serve Him with diligence and honesty of heart.

The every member canvas means the proper financing of the church and providing for the needs of our church boards and institutions. It means a weekly reimbursement of the church treasury, so that the expenses of the

church can be honorably and promptly met. It is only just that the church should make such provision, and it lies entirely within the province of the church to do this, every member will do his full duty.

We are to have the every member canvass before the new year opens. We must have a large number of volunteer canvassers. When the canvasser comes to you, make his work easy and pleasant for him. Be helpful to him. Give as God has prospered you—Freely ye have received, freely give. In order to meet our apportionment for benevolence, every member of the church should contribute five cents a week. This is a very small amount. We have had more people contributing for the current expenses during the present year than in any former year, but the contributions must be larger per week, and there are many more who should give. If they cannot give large amounts they should give their share for the support of the church and for the general work of the Lord. Do not make the attempt at trying to find out how small an amount you may give, but pray unto the Lord that He may show you your duty and your privilege.

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### MAKE CHRIST KING.

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Get ready for the revival. Pray for it; work for it. We hope we shall have the greatest revival that Fort Wayne has ever had. We feel greatly encouraged with the present outlook. Dr. Lyon has been a very successful evangelist ever since he has been in the work. He has the greatest organization of any evangelist in the field. The men who have been here from Muncie and Marion for our Sabbath afternoon inspirational meetings, bring us glowing accounts of the Lyon meetings in their cities during the past year. They

are enthusiastic for the evangelist and assure us that if the Fort Wayne churches will give Dr. Lyon the proper support, we cannot help but have a great meeting. Have faith, pray and work. We are already seeing the signs of the revival. The pastors and churches are a unit. The Cottage Prayer Meetings are well attended and the people are responding and are eagerly waiting for the meetings to open. If we are to have a great work of the Lord in our city the churches must respond and there must be whole hearted surrender to God and deep searchings of the heart. The preparatory work for a revival is earnest prayer and consecration. We must see to this. Another important phase is the personal work. Search out the unsaved people in your communities and in your social circles and in your homes; speak to them about their salvation and bring them out to the meetings so that they may get under the influence and power of the Holy Spirit moves the city will give us a great opportunity to win our friends and neighbors for Christ. When the tide of enthusiasm and power of the Holy Spirit moves the city then will be our opportunity for the blessing and for the salvation of our friends. The meetings are to begin Dec. 27 and continue for six or seven weeks. Get ready to start right in with the opening meeting. Deny yourself of all social functions and center all your heart and energy upon making Christ King; King in your life, in your home, and in the city. We want every member of Grace Church to identify himself actively with this work. The young men of the Agenda class and the young women of the Progreda class have offered their services as classes to the General Committee for active work in the meeting. The men of the church are asked to do volunteer work in the erection of the tabernacle. The Carpenters' Union has offered its services. Every man in the city who can give his time, is asked to lend a helping hand.

## Grace Church Visitor

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REV. A. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher

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Subscription Price, 25 cents per year

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Mr. Gavin, who has been ailing since early last spring, was out to the services on a recent Sabbath. Though not well, he is stronger, and feels better generally.

Mrs. Baum does not change much in her condition. She is resigned and very patient in her prolonged illness.

Mrs. Boals was very seriously ill a few weeks ago, and remains very weak yet, only able to sit up a few hours a day.

Mr. Luke Durnel, who met with a serious accident the first of the month and was taken to the hospital for attention and treatment, is getting along splendidly. He has been at home for the past several weeks. He was very fortunate that he came out of the run-away without losing his life.

Mrs. Frank Leikauf is at the Hope Hospital. She had taken a bad cold and was threatened with pneumonia. She is very much better and hopes to be able to return to her home soon.

Mr. H. P. Dinger is getting along very nicely. He is able to be out and about, but will not get back on the road until after the holidays.

We were glad to have Mr. Burghalter with us on a recent Sabbath. He gave us two stirring sermons. He spoke in the morning on the "Every Member Canvass," the methods of the canvass and its results. The church that does not have the "Every Member Canvass" is antiquated, and lacks in organization and enterprise. After listening to Mr. Burghalter's sermons, we hope we shall have no trouble to secure abundant help for the canvass in our church, and that we shall have a liberal response from every member for current expenses and benevolence.

The pastor and wife had a delightful visit the first of the month with friends at Canton, Glenford, Somerset, Thornville and Dayton, Ohio. It was four years since we last visited our sisters in the old home community. We found them all quite well, and we had a splendid time with them. Sabbath morning, Nov. 1st, we had the pleasure of attending Sabbath School at St. Paul's, the old home church, and of preaching at the morning service. The service was in charge of the Woman's Missionary Society. There was a good attendance and we had an opportunity of meeting the people of the church and community. St. Paul's church continues to be very active and aggressive in its work. The Sunday School is up to date and flourishing under the leadership of its enterprising and efficient superintendent, W. H. Parks. The Woman's Missionary Society is another of the faithful and active adjuncts of the church. For a rural church, St. Paul's has always had a most commendable record for church attendance, for spiritual activity and liberality. On Sabbath evening we had the pleasure of speaking to a large congregation in the Reformed Church at Thornville, Ohio. This service was also under the auspices of the Woman's Missionary Society. By special request we spoke on "Switzerland, the Birthplace of the Reformed Church." The Reformed Church at Thornville is also very active and prosperous. It has a membership of over two hundred, and has a commodious and beautiful new church building. Rev. Park Weaver is the energetic pastor of this church. He was formerly pastor of the Emanuel charge at Bluffton, Ind. On our way home we stopped at Dayton, Ohio, for a visit with Mrs. Vogt, the pastor's sister, where we also met our elder brother and family and a number of nieces and nephews. We greatly enjoyed our visit, and the privileges we had of seeing again so many of our old friends and



relatives. We were sorry that we could not spend more time with them, but urgent work at home made us feel that we must return to our field of labor.

Mrs. Rachel Wells died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Relue, Friday, Oct. 2. She was born in Byrne, Germany, Sept. 29th, 1826. She was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Forbreck. She came with her parents to America when about twelve years of age. The family resided for a short time at Buffalo, N. Y., where the father died. Later the family came to Springfield, Ohio, where Rachel was married in 1844 to W. F. Karber. In 1894 they came to Jay county, Ind., and in 1871 to Allen county. Mr. Karber died April 5, 1878. In 1882 Mrs. Karber was united in marriage to Mr. George Wells. Soon after their marriage they moved to this city. Mr. Wells died April 23rd, 1889. At an early age in life she united with the United Brethren Church. Later, in 1889, she was received into the Grace Reformed Church, of which she was a member to the time of her death. She was a devout and consecrated child of God, faithful in her attendance upon all of the services of the Church and exemplary in her life. Two sons, four daughters, thirty-seven grandchildren and thirty-two great-grandchildren survive this mother. The funeral services were held from the Church Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 5th.

Edward Miller died at the Lutheran Hospital Wednesday, Oct. 7th. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Miller, residing on Oakly street. He was aged 22 years, 6 months and 29 days. Mr. Miller was employed by the Pennsylvania Company and had a large circle of acquaintances and friends. The funeral was held from the home of the parents Friday afternoon, Oct. 9th. The father and mother, one brother and four sisters mourn the death of this young man.

A number of important changes have been made in the arrangement of some of our Sunday School classes. The Zwingli Class has been united with the Progreda Class and Miss Edith Shiffer elected as teacher. Miss Doermer has taken the secretaryship of the Bible Class and will devote some time to increasing the attendance. W. F. Close, who formerly taught the Progreda Class, will devote his time to the duties of Superintendent and trusts all the classes will call upon him for any assistance he can give them. Miss Evelyn Wertman, who has taught the Wayside Gleaners since Miss Bitner left the city, has resigned and becomes President of the Progreda Class. Miss Ruth Gumpfer has taken the Wayside Gleaners and Mr. Evan Williams becomes teacher of the boys' class formerly taught by Miss Gumpfer. All of these

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changes were brought about after careful consideration and we trust will work out to the satisfaction of all and the benefit of the Sunday School.

Miss Esther Weiler and Mr. Earl Dinger were both home from the university for the Thanksgiving vacation. They are enthusiastic for Heidelberg. They will be home again at the holiday vacation.

Mr. Clarence Aiken, Mr. Evan Williams, Miss Esther Fritz and Miss Evelyn Wertman attended the State C. E. Convention at Logansport. They came back brimfull and overflowing with good reports from the Convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Knot entertained the young people at their home in Forest Park at their monthly meeting. The evening was spent very pleasantly. The annual election was held at this meeting. Mr. Williams was re-elected President, Clarence Aiken Vice President; Miss Helen Trish, Secretary; Miss Edith Shiffer, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Bertha Weickart, Treasurer; Mrs. Ray Deak, Pianist; Miss Evelyn Wertman, Assistant.

The duties of church members as set forth in our church constitution are to attend the church services faithfully and to contribute for the support of the church according to their ability and to lead consistent Christian lives. Are you doing your duty?

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